

Remarks

In the non-final Office Action dated February 12, 2009, the following rejections are presented: claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Flora (U.S. Patent Pub. 5,343,417); and claims 8, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2). Claims 13-14 and 16-19 are noted as being allowed. Applicant traverses each these rejections per the following discussion which does not acquiesce in any regard to averments in this Office Action (unless Applicant expressly indicates otherwise).

Regarding the rejection of claims 8, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2), claim 20 has been cancelled and the rejection should be removed because the skilled artisan would understand the import and meaning of the language in claims 8 and 15 as required in § 112(2). Applicant is uncertain of the rationale for these rejections as none has been provided. Moreover, Applicant submits that the language in claims 8 and 15 is correct and requires no amendment (see Detailed Description in connection with Figures 8, 9 and 10).

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of the '417 reference, Applicant submits that correspondence is lacking and that the rejection should be removed. The '417 reference makes no mention whatsoever of circuits, as claimed by Applicant, for summing addends from multi-bit words and/or any logic circuitry for processing bits from multi-bit words. Rather, the '417 reference explicitly explains that it uses full (8-bit) and half (4-bit) adders for the "primary object of ... increasing multiplier operating speed while providing a minimum chip area." See '417 reference at Col. 1:19-22. Moreover, after discussing the exemplary embodiments, the '417 reference goes on to explain that the particularly taught implementation involves a full-adder versus half-adder approach with deficiencies towards its purpose due to the manner in which the full adder is used. See '417 reference at Col. 4, lines 51 *et seq.* In an effort to address these deficiencies and achieve the above-noted purpose, the '417 reference teaches that a final level (level 4) includes a pair of adders (serial adder 20 and carry look-ahead adder 21) arranged such that the specific length of serial adder 20 permits for faster processing by carry look-ahead adder 21 and less circuit-board real estate to implement adder 21. See '417 reference at Col. 5:37-51, Col. 1:37-41. Accordingly, the rejection should be removed because the '417 reference is directed to a specific type of implementation that

neither corresponds to the claimed invention nor even applies to the type of environment (multi-bit words) set forth as part of the claimed invention. Applicant submits that the teachings of the '417 reference are so specific in this regard, the skilled artisan would be led away from any suggestion of attempting to use such teachings in a manner as asserted in the Office Action. See the cited '417 reference generally and also Col. 5:18-22, and M.P.E.P. § 2143.01.

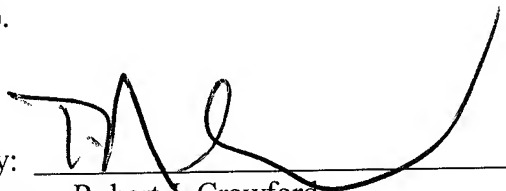
In further support hereof, Applicant would encourage the Examiner to carefully review the '417 reference in further detail to confirm the above-presented characterization and to confirm that the '417 reference makes no mention whatsoever of multi-bit words or a first level for receiving addends of multi-bit words as claimed. For example, at Col. 5:12-27, the '417 reference discusses its adder 21 as having a bit-length that is defined in a manner unrelated to multi-bit words. Long-standing ordinary/dictionary definitions clearly differentiate such commonly-used technical terms, "bits", "bytes" and "words"; see Applicant's specification (*e.g.*, third and fourth paragraphs), the cited '417 reference (*e.g.*, Col. 2:40-51).

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, David Cordeiro, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063 (or the undersigned).

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